Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 SS-15 NSC-05 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /052 W

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R 100857Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5194
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, JO
SUBJECT: ISRAELI NEWSPAPER REPORTS PRINCE HASSAN
HEADS OPPOSITION AGAINST KING HUSSEIN

- 1. YEDIOT AHARONOT MARCH 9 CITED "ARAB SOURCES" IN JORDAN AND THE WEST BANK AS STATING THAT KING BUSSEIN IS LIKELY TO BE DEPOSED DUE TO OPPOSITION LED BY PRINCE HASSAN AND THE QUEEN MOTHER.
- 2. BEGIN TEXT. HIGH-RANKING ARAB SOURCES STATE THAT KING HUSSEIN'S STATUS IN JORDAN HAS BEEN DETERIORATING RAPIDLY OF LATE AND THAT THE PREVAILING FEELING IS THAT HIS DEPOSAL IS "MERELY A QUESTION OF TIME".
- 3. THESE SOURCES, IN JORDAN AS WELL AS ON THE WEST BANK, FURTHER STATED THAT HUSSEIN WAS NOW FACED WITH A TANGIBLE OPPOSITION, WHICH WAS GAINING IN STRENGTH, HEADED BY HIS BROTHER, PRINCE HASSAN AND THE QUEEN MOTHER. PRINCE HASSAN, MOREOVER, WAS NOW BEING SUPPORTED BY SENIOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICERS IN THE JORDANIAN ARMY.

4. OPPOSITION TO HUSSEIN, MAINLY WITHIN HIS FAMILY, HAS ESPECIALLY INCREASED SINCE THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, THE LATE QUEEN ALIYA, IN A HELICOPTER CRASH. AFTER THE TRAGEDY -- WHICH MANY BELIEVE TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY SABOTAGE -- HUSSEIN TOOK HIS YEAR-OLD SON ALI TO ENGLAND.

ALI IS TO INHERIT THE THRONE IN DUE COURSE. HOWEVER, THE QUEEN MOTHER AND PRIMCE HASSAN ARE VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO THIS, THE SOURCES REPORT. END TEXT.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT SEEN PRESS STORIES ELSEWHERE WHICH CORROBORATE THIS REPORT, BUT WE PASS IT ALONG FOR EMBASSY AMMAN'S INTEREST AND COMMENT. DUNNIGAN

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Subject: ISRAELI NEWSPAPER REPORTS PRINCE HASSAN HEADS OPPOSITION AGAINST KING HUSSEIN

TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, IS, JO, (HUSSEIN I)

To: STATE Type: TE

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